

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A payout tube for a storage container, the payout tube comprising an elongated conduit with a flexible portion.
2. The payout tube of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion of the payout tube is designed to be placed in the interior of the container.
3. The payout tube of claim 2, wherein the payout tube also contains a portion that is designed to be exterior to the container.
4. The payout tube of claim 2, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 1 degree to about 120 degrees.
5. The payout tube of claim 4, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 5 to about 90 degrees.
6. The payout tube of claim 1, wherein the storage container a continuous length of material comprising communication wires and cables, building wires and cables, electrical wires, steel strands, tire cords and cables, ropes, and tubing.
7. The payout tube of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion comprises a plurality of slots.
8. The payout tube of claim 7, wherein the number and size of slots should be relative to the desired flexibility and required strength of the payout tube.

9. The payout tube of claim 7, wherein the shape of the slots can be substantially circular, rectangular, square, triangular, polygonal, or a combination thereof.

10. The payout tube of claim 7, wherein the slots can be located along the entire length of the flexible portion or only a part thereof.

11. The payout tube of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion comprises corrugations.

12. The payout tube of claim 10, wherein the corrugations can be located along the entire length of the flexible portion or only a part thereof.

13. A device for removing a continuous length of material from a storage container, the device comprising an elongated conduit with a flexible portion.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the flexible portion is designed to be placed in the interior of the container.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the device also contains a portion that is designed to be exterior to the container.

16. The device of claim 13, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 1 degree to about 120 degrees.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 5 to about 90 degrees.

18. The device of claim 13, wherein the flexible portion comprises a plurality of slots.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the slots can be located along the entire length of the flexible portion or only a part thereof.

20. The device of claim 13, wherein the flexible portion comprises corrugations.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the corrugations can be located along the entire length of the flexible portion or only a part thereof.

22. A storage container for a continuous length of material, the container comprising a payout tube having an elongated conduit with a flexible portion.

23. A system for removing a continuous length of material from a storage container, the system comprising a device comprising an elongated conduit with a flexible portion through which the continuous length material is removed.

24. A method for removing a continuous length of material from a storage container, the method comprising:

providing a payout tube having an elongated conduit with a flexible portion; and

removing a portion of the continuous length of material from the storage container through the payout tube.

25. The method of claim 24, including providing the payout tube in a wall of the storage container.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the flexible portion of the payout tubes bends towards the direction at which the continuous length material enters the payout tube.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the flexible portion bends or flexes in an angle ranging from about 1 degree to about 120 degrees.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the flexible portion bends or flexes in an angle ranging from about 5 to about 90 degrees.

29. The method of claim 24, wherein the continuous length of material does not substantially kink or tangle while being removed from the storage container.

30. A method for providing a continuous length of material, the method comprising:

packaging a continuous length of material in a storage container, the container comprising a payout tube having an elongated conduit with a flexible portion; and

removing the continuous length of material from the storage container through the payout tube.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the flexible portion of the payout tubes bends towards the direction at which the continuous length of material enters the payout tube.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 1 to about 120 degrees.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the flexible portion can bend or flex in an angle ranging from about 5 to about 90 degrees.